

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for playing generating an electronic pull tab game, comprising:

generating a deck of pull tabs, each of the pull tabs having a serial number associated therewith, wherein at least one of the pull tabs is designated as a winning tab tickets that specifies for each of the pull tab tickets, a game theme specifying game outcome display indicia, a number of pull tab lines played, and a ticket index that specifies a game outcome;

generating a deal of the pull tabs by tab tickets within the deck, wherein the deal specifies a monetary denomination and a sequential order of one or more of the pull tab tickets within the deck; and

responsive to a purchase transaction for a pull tab ticket within said deck:

shuffling the deck of pull tabs tab tickets using a linear congruential algorithm to select a pull tab ticket index from the set of pull tab serial numbers ticket indices, said linear congruential algorithm comprising the formula:

$$\text{NextTicketIndex} = (\text{Multiplier} * \text{PreviousTicketIndex} + \text{Increment}) / \text{Modulus},$$

wherein NextTicketIndex represents the selected pull tab ticket index, Modulus represents a specified modulus value, Multiplier represents a constant associated with the specified modulus value, wherein the specified modulus value is a power of two and is at least five times greater than the number of the pull tab tickets in said deck, PreviousTicketIndex represents the previously issued pull tab ticket index, and Increment represents an odd integer that is uniquely associated to said deal from among other deals within said deck and is less than the value for Modulus; and,

making the deal of pull tabs available to players

assigning the selected pull tab ticket index specified by NextTicketIndex.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the linear congruential algorithm is designed not to repeat until all of the pull tabs in the deck have been selected.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the pull tab tickets is designated as a winning tab in accordance with its pull tab ticket index, said method further comprising dividing the set of winning pull tabs into a plurality of subsets.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of subsets has a different number of winning pull tabs.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising assigning at least one win amount to the subsets.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting a plurality of outcome display indicia to be associated with [[a]] the deal, wherein at least one combination of indicia serves as a winning combination.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, further comprising selecting a plurality of outcome display indicia to be associated with [[a]] the deal, wherein at least one combination of indicia serves as a winning combination.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising assigning at least one winning indicia combination to each of the plurality of subsets.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, further comprising selecting a price players should be charged for a pull tab ticket, and associating a win value with each of the plurality of subsets.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising making at least the pull tab ticket price and win values known to players.

Claims 11-22 (Cancelled)

23. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ticket index is specified as a serial number, said method further comprising printing a game card specifying the serial number in a machine readable format.

24. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein Decksize is the number of pull tab tickets in said deck, and wherein said ticket indices of the pull tab tickets in said deck are numeric values ranging between 0 and ($\text{Decksize} - 1$), said method further comprising applying said linear congruential algorithm iteratively until a generated `NextTicketIndex` value is greater than or equal to 0 and less than `Decksize`.

25. (New) A system for generating an electronic pull tab game, comprising:
means for generating a deck of pull tab tickets that specifies for each of the pull tab tickets, a game theme specifying game outcome display indicia, a number of pull tab lines played, and a ticket index that specifies a game outcome;
means for generating a deal of the pull tab tickets within the deck, wherein the deal specifies a monetary denomination and a sequential order of one or more of the pull tab tickets within the deck; and
means responsive to a purchase transaction for a pull tab ticket within said deck for:
shuffling the deck of pull tab tickets using a linear congruential algorithm to select from the pull tab ticket indices, said linear congruential algorithm comprising the formula:
$$\text{NextTicketIndex} = (\text{Multiplier} * \text{PreviousTicketIndex} + \text{Increment}) / \text{Modulus},$$
wherein NextTicketIndex represents the selected pull tab ticket index, Modulus represents a specified modulus value, Multiplier represents a constant associated with the specified modulus value, wherein the specified modulus value is a power of two and is at least five times greater than the number of the pull tab tickets in said deck, PreviousTicketIndex represents the previously issued pull tab ticket index, and Increment represents an odd integer that is uniquely associated to said deal from among other deals within said deck and is less than the value for Modulus; and,
assigning the selected pull tab ticket index specified by NextTicketIndex.

26. (New) The system of Claim 25, wherein the linear congruential algorithm is designed not to repeat until all of the pull tabs in the deck have been selected.

27. (New) The system of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the pull tab tickets is designated as a winning tab in accordance with its pull tab ticket index, said system further comprising means for dividing the set of winning pull tabs into a plurality of subsets.

28. (New) The system of Claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of subsets has a different number of winning pull tabs.

29. (New) The system of Claim 28, further comprising means for assigning at least one win amount to the subsets.

30. (New) The system of Claim 25, further comprising means for selecting a plurality of outcome display indicia to be associated with the deal, wherein at least one combination of indicia serves as a winning combination.

31. (New) The system of Claim 27, further comprising means for selecting a plurality of outcome display indicia to be associated with the deal, wherein at least one combination of indicia serves as a winning combination.

32. (New) The system of Claim 31, further comprising means for assigning at least one winning indicia combination to each of the plurality of subsets.